



# UPDATE

OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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**In service to our country**

## Frontier Health Employees Provide Disaster Relief

Many Americans had the desire, but not necessarily the expertise to effectively assist with relief and recovery after the tragedy of September 11.

However, Frontier Health (in upper East Tennessee) was prepared. The center's

Assessment Services Office in Johnson City, was dispatched to Falls Church, Va. on October 2 to work on the Red Cross' National Compliance Hotline. She was responsible for debriefing family service workers and providing crisis intervention to callers.

"We dealt with calls from airline employees, family and friends of citizens from around the country," Cannon stated. "I was extremely impressed how friendly, appreciative and helpful the people of Washington, D.C. were. There was an extra sense of gratitude and community."

**Bill Manuel**, adult outpatient therapist with Bristol Regional Counseling Center, was stationed in Princeton, N.J. from October 6-20. Many individuals commuted daily from the Princeton area into New York, and a large number of families were directly affected by the terrorist attacks.

Manuel worked as part of a front line team along with a health service and family service worker. "It was very

difficult work, very emotionally draining. It was also very rewarding though, being able to help people," Manuel stated.

**John Singleton**, a licensed clinical social worker with Fairview Associates in Kingsport, volunteered with the National Call Center in Falls Church. He had access to the national Red Cross database and could provide information about any Red Cross response to people who called the 1-888-GETINFO line.

"I'm very glad I had the opportunity to respond in a positive way to this crisis in our nation," said Singleton. "I wanted to be of service, and being able to do that was very gratifying."

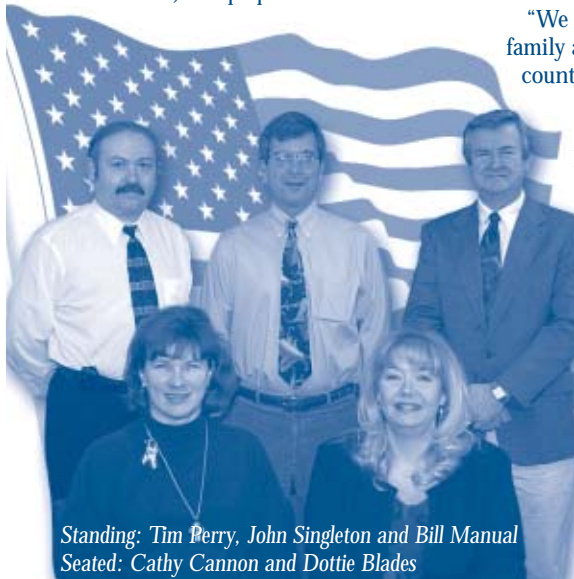
In addition to those who provided assistance through the Red Cross, another employee served in a different fashion.

**Tim Perry**, a coordinator in the Children and Youth Services Division at Bristol Regional Counseling Center, was invited to train teachers and counselors in the Jersey

City, N.J. school district to identify and address student issues.

"Some of the students are just beginning to show signs of post-traumatic stress," says Perry. "There's a continued sense of anxiety," he added. Perry said that estimates indicate 9,600-10,000 children lost at least one parent as a result of the terrorist attacks.

Those who provided disaster relief services are extremely grateful to Frontier Health and their co-workers for enabling them to help our country during this time of greatest need.



Standing: Tim Perry, John Singleton and Bill Manuel  
Seated: Cathy Cannon and Dottie Blades

leadership had made a commitment to the local Red Cross, last spring, to maintain a group of licensed, master's-level clinicians trained in specialized Red Cross Mental Health Disaster Relief. When the Red Cross called, four Frontier staffers stepped forward. Two went to the New York area—two to Washington D.C.

**Dottie Blades**, a team leader at Holston Counseling in Kingsport, was deployed to Millburn, N.J. on September 24 for two weeks. Thousands commute from Newark into New York daily and many individuals from that area knew people who were lost at the World Trade Center.

"Emotionally, it was the hardest work I've ever done in my life," said Blades. Her work included helping children who had lost one or both parents as well as helping individuals who lost a spouse or partner. In conjunction with the Red Cross, she was able to refer individuals to ongoing resources.

**Cathy Cannon**, an examiner in Frontier's

## Coppol Heads Memphis MHI

Michael D. Coppol was named chief officer of Memphis Mental Health Institute (MMHI) effective October 29.

"We were challenged to select a superintendent from a pool of outstanding internal and external candidates," said DMHDD Deputy Commissioner Ben Dishman in regard to Coppol's appointment.

With a bachelor's degree in business administration from Franklin University (Columbus, Ohio) and a master's in hospital administration from the University Alabama at Birmingham, Coppol has amassed 18 years as an administrator/CEO of psychiatric hospitals.

His most recent appointment was at Vencor Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana—a 59 bed, long-term acute care facility.



March 5, 2002 has been designated Mental Health Day on Capitol Hill. For more information contact Anita Bertrand, executive director of the MH Association of Tennessee at (615) 242-7122.

## Update

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## Around the State

### Mountain View Treatment Center Opens

Grandview Medical Center in South Pittsburg introduced its newest facility—Mountain View Treatment Center—on August 28. The 18-bed psychiatric unit will house voluntary patients ages 18 and up found eligible through diagnosis by a licensed psychiatrist.

Emphasis will be placed on geriatrics with patients coming from nursing homes from throughout the region.

### Columbia Area MHC Awarded \$30,000 Grant

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services has awarded Columbia Area Mental Health Center \$30,000 in support of its Responsible Parenting Program.

Designed to prevent child abuse and neglect, the program provides parenting education and support services to teenage parents of children ages four and under. It serves residents of Lewis, Marshall and Maury counties. For information contact Miki Martin at (931) 490-1557.

### DMHDD Staff Honored

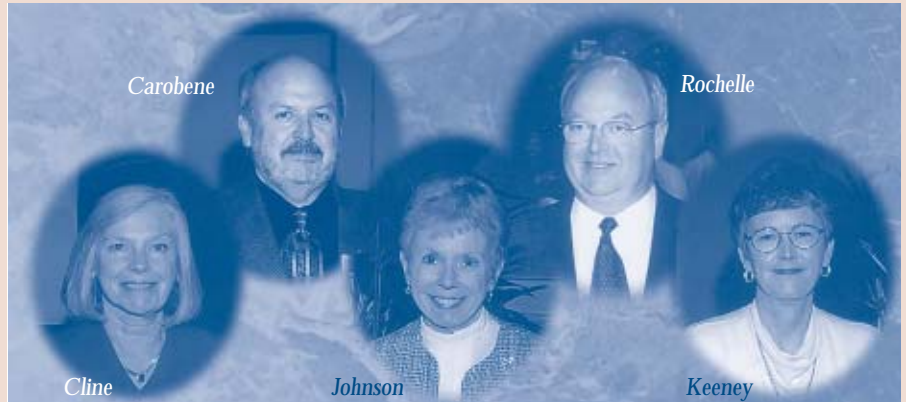
Marthagem Whitlock, deputy assistant commissioner of MH Services, was presented the Marvin Chapman, M.D. Memorial Award at the NASMHPD (National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors) Forensic Division Membership in Cincinnati, Ohio in September.

It was presented in recognition for her deep commitment and devotion to the provision of forensic mental health services in her state and nationally for her excellence in programming at the system, facility and community levels.

Marie Williams, director of Housing Planning and Development, was honored with the Annual Hampton-Perry Award at the 3rd Annual Tennessee Conference on Co-occurring Disorders meeting in Memphis in October. She was recognized for efforts in the southeast region as a treatment professional who has advanced the integrity of mental health and substance abuse treatment through her leadership and vision.



### TAMHO Presents Annual Awards



The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) held its annual meeting and training conference in Franklin this past October. At the awards luncheon the following were presented:

**Media Award** to The Tullahoma News Guardian. Without fail, the editors, publishers and Life Styles Reporter Ann Cline, have continually provided exceptional coverage on a variety of mental health issues.

**Community Services Award** to Dr. Joseph E. and Patricia Johnson of Knoxville who for many years have served as ambassadors and advocates for those with mental illnesses and their families.

**Distinguished Service Award** to Artie Feagins, senior vice president of Fiscal Services of Frontier Health, who for more than 35 years has ensured the fiscal viability

of community mental health services in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

**Dorothea Dix Award** to Joseph Carobene, chief officer of Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute, as an outstanding leader in the mental health community and a resource for professionals, families and consumers.

**Frank G. Clement Award** to Lucy Shapard Keeney who is dedicated to helping the mentally ill and a board member who goes beyond attending meetings. She chairs the Development Board of Highland Rim MHC.

**President's Award** to State Senator Bob Rochelle of the 17th district who was honored for his support of TAMHO and his commitment to helping solve the problems faced by the entire mental health community.

# Around the State

**A Mental Health Break Was Fun For All**—One of the Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW) activities in Nashville was "Take A Mental Health Break" at the Farmers' Market. The event featured renditions from upcoming starlets and a karaoke contest with mental health consumers. One contestant—who attends a Drop-In Center sponsored by Harriett Cohn MHC—is pictured as he prepares to sing; then with friends as they enjoy the rest of the activities.



## Park Center Awarded CARF Accreditation

Nashville's Park Center recently received a one-year accreditation for its Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program and Employment Program from CARE, the Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission.

Since 1984, Park Center has provided job training, employment assistance, housing and other supports to adults with severe and persistent mental illness in Davidson County.

## Happenings

- Leigh Ann Walker has joined the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Section of the Department of Health as a health educator and will be conducting training across the state regarding resources and brain injury prevention. Walker can be reached at (615) 532-7770 or (800) 882-0611. Mental Health's Sandy Heath serves as the DMHDD's representative on the TBI Advisory Board.

- Suzanne Iler has been named vice president of development for Centerstone Community Mental Health Centers. She was previously executive director of Belle Meade Plantation.



Iler

- Peninsula Behavioral Health has named Nina Pennewell as Village Clinical Director. For six years she was both clinical director and co-creator of the Life Skills Unit.

- The 2002 Arc Conference is scheduled for June 20-23 at the Riverview Inn in Clarksville. The organization is seeking speakers and vendors. If interested, contact Joanne Wilson, president of the Montgomery County Arc at (931) 905-0900 or Peggy Cooper at the Arc Office (800) 835-7077.

- Clark Flatt, CEO of the Jason Foundation, was recently appointed chairperson of the Region IV Suicide Prevention Network.

- Five Park Center employees recently received certifications as Registered Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioners (RPRP). They are Sam Scales, clubhouse director; Donna Grayer, director of Dual Diagnosis Services; Diane Roseberry, administrative director; Penny Campbell, associate executive director; and Gayle Buckler, lead program coordinator/clerical unit.



**Changes in the Title 33 Law- What every Psychology Practitioner Should Know** was presented by DMHDD's Bob VanderSpek, Marthagem Whitlock, and Dr. Larry Thompson at the Tennessee Psychological Association's annual meeting at the Nashville Airport Marriott.

## NAMI/Tennessee Lists Award Winners

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill/Tennessee held its annual meeting in September in Gatlinburg and presented the following awards:

- Model Project Award** to Marie Williams for Creating Homes Initiative for innovation and dedication in service to special populations.
- Professional Award** went to Sgt. Twana Chick of the Metro Nashville Police Department (West Sector), for unselfish contributions to the mental health community.
- Media Award** to Kristi Nelson of the Knoxville News Sentinel for sensitive reporting on mental health issues.
- Legislative Award** to Senator Gene Elsea of Spring City for distinguished service in behalf of persons with mental illness.

## TAMHO Elects 2002 Officers

The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) recently elected the following officers for 2002:

**President**—H. Earl Medley, executive director, Fortwood Center, Chattanooga.



Medley

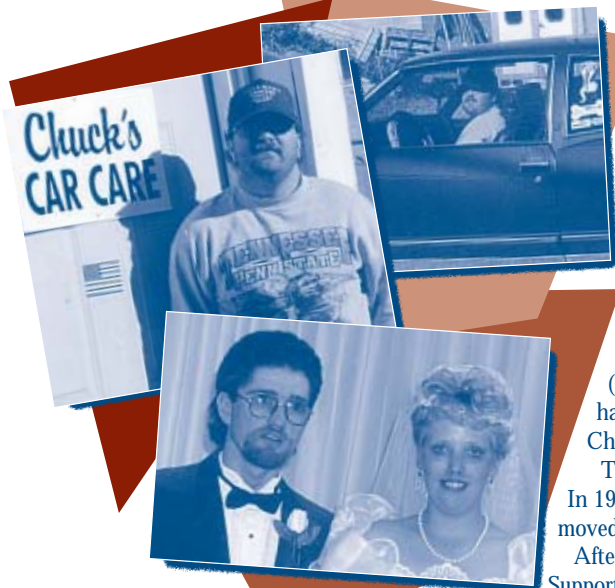


Varney

**Immediate Past President**—E. Douglas Varney, president and chief executive officer of Frontier Health, Johnson City.

**President Elect**—Janet Whaley, executive director of Frayser Family Counseling Center in Memphis.

**Treasurer**—Barry Hale, executive director of Quinco Community Mental Health Center in Bolivar who will serve a two-year term.



## Profile

# Community Services Helps Chuck Put His Life Together

Chuck comes from a background of abuse. Starting right after birth and continuing through his teen years, he was abused mentally, physically and sexually by many close adults and caregivers. He also lived in approximately 50 foster homes during that time.

His situation culminated when he turned 18 and ran away from his foster home. He tried to get his bearings. First, he lived in his car for almost three months, then moved to a homeless shelter for another two months and then, finally, into an apartment.

Chuck is a young man who has mild mental retardation, attention deficit disorder (distractibility without hyperactivity), and personality disorder (paranoid features). He has family in Loudon, TN and surrounding counties. So, the caseworker who was helping Chuck tried to get him closer to home.

That is when A.C.T. or Adult Community Training, Inc. of Lenoir City came into his life. In 1994, A.C.T. was contacted regarding residential services and shortly thereafter Chuck moved to try out the new opportunity.

After the move, he was certified for the supported employment program and lived in the 3.5 Supported Living apartments with a roommate. He began learning independent living skills and worked at many different jobs.

Then Chuck started dating, got engaged and married in 1995. Chuck and his new bride, Gloria, moved into an apartment of their own and lived there for close to five years. In 1999, they upgraded and bought their own home.

After several jobs, Chuck found success and satisfaction working for A.C.T. at "Chuck's Car Care" where he does vehicle maintenance. Chuck and Gloria are very successful and satisfied with their lives.

Community services have been very successful throughout the state. People who have had no place to turn have found a new life; a new sense of direction.

*For more information about services offered by Adult Community Training, call (865) 986-6182.*

## Network Vital in Helping People with Disabilities

The community-based services network is a vital part of the service delivery system for people with disabilities.

"The basic premise of the network is to provide services and supports necessary for an individual with mental retardation to become a part of his or her community," said Barbara Brent, former deputy commissioner of the Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS).

"We have been very pleased with the level of support we've received from the Sundquist Administration and the legislature in providing rate increases to providers of community-based services," said Brent.

The increases include 3 percent in fiscal year 2000; 3 percent waiver services and 5 percent state only services in 2001. For 2002 a 3.5 percent increase was funded for waiver services and a 2.3 percent for state services.

## Community Safety Measures Outlined

In conjunction with families, advocates and others, the Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS) has implemented safety measures designed to reduce the incidence of abuse and neglect in the community.

"We recognize there are some potential dangers in the community or natural environment that would not be present in a more structured environment that exists in a developmental center. For example, a person being injured in an automobile accident," said former Deputy Commissioner Barbara Brent.

"However, we continue to put safety measures in place to ensure the well-being of those living in the community," Brent

continued.

The DMRS and the Bureau of TennCare take instances of abuse and neglect very seriously, not just for class members (who are party to a class action lawsuit) whose cases were cited in a recent trend study, but for all persons receiving services.

Brent added, "We have several pre-service and in-service training programs for staff and are exploring other ways to enhance the expertise of frontline staff."

Additionally, DMRS and TennCare will work together to augment existing training, incident management systems and investigative processes to increase prevention efforts.



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